

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
March 8, 2000

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, 2000, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Walter C. Zarembo.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zarembo, Donald E. Wiggins, and James S. Burgett.

Sheila S. Noll and Melanie L. Rapp were absent.

Also in attendance were Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

PROPOSED FY2001 BUDGET

Mr. Stuck indicated the purpose of this particular work session was to go over the issues that are in the budget and answer any questions the Board might have at this point. He stated Mr. McReynolds and Mrs. Kirish would very briefly go over the outline of the document on the Internet, and he would go over some of the handouts on the short-form budget that was provided to the Board for the purposes of this work session.

Mr. Wiggins addressed the recent advertisements for the budget that appeared in the newspaper this past weekend, and asked why the one concerning the effective tax rate due to the reassessment couldn't have been worded in a manner that would not have made the citizens think the Board was raising their taxes.

Mr. Stuck explained that the wording was required by State law.

Mrs. Noll arrived at 6:03 p.m.

Discussion followed on the issue of a tax rate increase versus tax increases.

Mr. James O. McReynolds, Director of Financial and Management Services, then reviewed the budget document and the way it was organized, showing how it could be accessed on the Internet.

Miss Rapp arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Discussion followed concerning the Mosquito Control function and the personnel assigned to it.

Mr. Stuck then reviewed population estimates information from the Weldon Cooper Center, indicating that York County has the highest average annual population growth in all of Hampton Roads. He reviewed the summary document indicating the figures match those in the complete budget document. He highlighted several issues in order to start discussion.

The Board then briefly discussed the following with staff:

- Law Library
- Trailers at York High School
- Alternative Schools
- Increase in personnel costs
- Proposed new positions
- Need for more personnel in Environmental Services to address site plan review/analysis

Meeting Recessed. At 8:03 p.m. Chairman Zaremba declared a short recess.

Meeting Reconvened. At 8:14 p.m. the meeting was reconvened in open session by order of the Chair.

Mr. Stuck noted the proposed budget contains no new initiatives. He asked the Board to let staff know as soon as possible if they feel there are other issues that need to be addressed.

Miss Rapp asked if the money the County would receive for reimbursement because of Hurricane Floyd was earmarked.

Mr. Stuck indicated that some of it must go back to the departments' budgets, but some of it will fall to the bottom line. He stated it was not additional money; the County spent this money and more during the emergency.

Chairman Zaremba asked the Board members to identify any issues they might have at this time for discussion. He noted the public hearing on the budget will be held on March 14 with three work sessions scheduled for the following week.

Mr. Stuck noted that on March 15 after the public hearing the Board would be asked to identify any unresolved issues needing discussion so that the agenda for the three work sessions could be developed.

Mrs. Noll indicated she had no issues at this point.

Mr. Wiggins indicated he had a lot of concerns, but he wanted to do some research.

Mr. Burgett indicated he had a list in his office, and he would send it by FAX.

Chairman Zaremba stated he would like to discuss the benchmarking process to specifically address accessing federal facilities; consolidation with the School Board in terms of vehicle maintenance, grounds maintenance, etc.; the Seaford gymnasium; and identifying the role of the Arts Commission with regard to funding.

Mr. Stuck indicated there was a project in the Capital Improvements Program for enlarging County facilities to consolidate the County's vehicle maintenance function with that of the School Board. He also noted that in the budget the Board appropriates a lump sum to the Arts Commission for its disbursement to arts agencies. This disbursement is done by an approval resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Zaremba then noted the Board members had received a letter from Charles Berrane indicating Sheriff's deputies were having to purchase their own handguns.

Mr. Stuck stated he had addressed this issue with the Sheriff who indicated the statement was totally incorrect. He stated the Sheriff had contacted Mr. Berrane on the matter.

Chairman Zaremba stated he had received correspondence from Mr. Earl Hastings back in November concerning the County purchasing a vehicle which removes leaves from ditches. He noted the County has severe drainage problems, and he asked if the staff had looked into the purchase of such a piece of equipment.

Mr. Stuck indicated that several years ago when staff was exploring the leaf collection program it evaluated several types of vehicles. Newport News and Hampton were consulted, and the recommendation was that in York County the type of vehicle suggested by Mr. Hastings would not work where there are ditches. He stated that staff would revisit the matter if the Board wished.

Mr. Wiggins stated people are raking their leaves into the ditches, and they want the County pick them up. He suggested the drainage problems might not be as bad if people would refrain from doing so. The citizens need to be made aware that placing leaves in the ditches is causing more problems.

Chairman Zaremba then asked that the agenda for the next work session include a discussion of the request for funding by the Heritage Humane Society.

Discussion followed on the cost of running a dog pound and the refusal of the Heritage Human Society to receive York County animals at its facility.

Chairman Zaremba also asked that the Board take a look at funding a portion of health care premiums for retired firefighters.

Mrs. Noll asked that the discussion take place for all County retirees.

Meeting Adjourned. At 8:50 p.m. Chairman Zaremba declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

Daniel M. Stuck, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Walter C. Zaremba, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors